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Secretary Vernon Williams
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

I am presenting these comments to oppose the sale of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railroad (EJ&E) to the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) and the Grand Trunk Corporation, docket number FD35087.

With the CN takeover, it's anticipated that train traffic over the tracks that are no more than 50 feet from my home will increase almost four-fold. On average, more than two trains per hour will pass my home and those of thousands of other residents of Frankfort, New Lenox, Matteson and other communities along the right of way. The increased train traffic will have an enormous negative impact on many residential communities in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Some of my many concerns are as follows:

- Hazardous materials will be transported at least once per day very near Hickory Creek Middle School in Frankfort
- More than 35 school buses travel across the grade crossing nearest to my home and I would imagine that thousands cross roads over the entire line.
- Vehicular traffic will become very congested approaching the 5 or more grade crossings in Frankfort alone and there are 133 grade crossings over the entire EJ&E line many on roads already congested by vehicular traffic

- Health-related issues will skyrocket as noise, air pollution and anxiety levels increase to effectively cause the residents of the affected communities to have difficulties performing basic tasks such as sleeping
- Emergency services to residents along the right of way would be negatively impacted. I am a senior citizen and I hope that I am not waiting for an ambulance to help myself or my wife as it waits for a 10,000 foot train to pass.
- Air pollution would increase to unacceptable levels due to the motor vehicles forced to wait at crossings for the 10,000 foot trains promised by the CN, fuel will be wasted and drivers may well try to race the trains to the many crossing without gates to avoid the long delays.

It is my understanding that the CN already access to a right of way through Chicago, most of which is above roadways and much of it through industrial or non-residential areas. The acquisition of the EJ&E would save CN money, I'm sure but the negative impact on the largely residential EJ&E right of way should make the Surface Transportation Board rule in favor of the people who have the most to lose, the residents of the numerous communities along the EJ&E Railway tracks.

In closing, I feel that the sale of the EJ&E to the CN does not promote the public interest. Any benefits are greatly outweighed by the numerous safety concerns, increased congestion, wasted fuel and environmental problems caused by its approval. Please consider all of these factors and rule against the CN's requested purchase of the EJ&E.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Prietz